

The Meaning of Mean

The **mean** of a data set is the sum of the items in the set divided by the number of items. The mean can also be called the *average*. To find the mean, add all the data values and divide by the number of values.

— Example —

The weekly allowances for a group of children are: \$5.00, \$4.00, \$3.50, \$6.00, \$5.00, \$2.50, \$2.00, \$7.00, \$6.50, \$4.50, \$3.50, \$5.50. What is the mean allowance? Round your answer to the nearest cent.

Step 1: Add all of the amounts.

The total is \$55.00.

Step 2: There are 12 items.

Divide the total dollar amount by this number.

$\$55.00 \div 12 = \$4.5833\ldots$

The mean allowance is \$4.58 when rounded to the nearest cent.

Try It Find the mean price of these six boxes of crackers:

\$3.25, \$2.75, \$2.00, \$3.25, \$2.50, \$2.75.

- Add all of the prices together. What is the sum? _____
- How many boxes of crackers are there all together? _____
- Divide the sum of the prices by the number of boxes of crackers.

Show your number sentence. _____ \div _____ = _____

- Write the mean price. _____

Find the mean weight of these cats: Frisky, 6 lb; Mittens, 8 lb; Tiger, 12 lb; Baby Kitty, 7 lb; Patches, 10 lb; Kissy, 9 lb; Tripod, 14 lb; Angel, 9 lb. Round your answer to the nearest whole number.

- Step 1: _____
- Step 2: _____
- Mean weight: _____

Find the mean of each set of data.

- Length of these six pencils:

12 cm, 15 cm, 16 cm, 10 cm, 11 cm, 14 cm _____

- Score of these eight tests:

78, 69, 82, 75, 90, 88, 72, 86 _____